



USAID/U.S. Embassy Beijing Newsletter



USAID Mission:

We partner to end extreme poverty and promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing our security and prosperity.

February 2015

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Administrator Shah is stepping down and his last day in USAID is Feb. 17, 2015. The Deputy Administrator, Alfonso E. Lenhardt will be acting until a

new Administrator is sworn in. Our staff, resources, partners and reputation have all grown substantially in the past 5 years, and we owe a great debt of gratitude to Dr. Shah's leadership.

Recent Activities in USAID

Outlook of 2015

The year 2014 included some huge accomplishments that will serve as building blocks for USAID's future success.

USAID launched new [mission statement](#) and stood up the [Global Development Lab](#).

In April, the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation hosted its first High-Level Meeting in Mexico City. In August, the United States welcomed delegations from 50 African nations to Washington for the first U.S. - Africa Leaders Summit. In September, USAID hosted [Frontiers in Development](#) in Washington. And in December, USAID participated in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) High-Level Meeting in Paris.

2015 promises to be seminal for international development. In July, the third Financing for Development Summit will take place in Addis. In September, the world's leaders will gather at the United Nations to set global development goals for the next 15 years. Finally, in December, the climate negotiations will conclude in Paris. If everything goes right, we'll end 2015 with a universal vision on how to achieve sustainable development that ends extreme poverty while safeguarding the planet and basic human dignity for all.

—From Alex Thier, Assistant Administrator,
Bureau of Policy, Planning and Learning

Progress of [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDG) since 2000:

[MDG 1](#): extreme poverty has been cut in half

[MDG 2](#): 90 percent of children in developing countries have been enrolled in primary school

[MDG 3](#): equality has been achieved between boys and girls in developing countries attending primary school

[MDG 4](#): 17,000 fewer children die each day from preventable causes than in 1990

[MDG 5](#): maternal mortality has fallen by 45 percent since 1990

[MDG 6](#): millions more deaths have been prevented from HIV/AIDS and malaria

[MDG 7](#): 23 million people have gained access to clean drinking water since 1990

[MDG 8](#): trade is improving and debt is decreasing in developing countries



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United States Announces Results of Grand Challenge to Fight Ebola

Led by USAID, the Challenge launched in early October and sourced new, practical solutions in partnership with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Defense. In just two months, innovators from around the world submitted over 1,500 ideas focused on helping frontline health care workers to provide better, more timely care and to contain the devastating Ebola virus. After hearing pitches from top innovators, U.S. Government experts and international partners selected the most promising ideas through a rapid, rigorous review process. This first round of awards focuses on improving the safety and comfort of the personal protective equipment (PPE) worn by healthcare workers and alleviating the heat stress it can cause in the hot, humid climates of West Africa.

Three innovations will receive financial and/or other support and undergo intensive testing to ensure readiness for production and field deployment:

Johns Hopkins University's Center for Bioengineering Innovation & Design (CBID) & Jhpiego

Healthcare worker suit redesigned for quicker and safer doffing/removal with integrated cooling features utilizing technology from Johns Hopkins University

Aquarius GEP LLC and Innovative BioDefense

Antiseptic that, when applied to skin, provides up to six hours of pathogen protection and serves as an anti-microbial barrier to viral transmission for health care workers

SPR Advanced Technologies, Inc.

Long-lasting, spray-on barrier that kills and repels microbes with electro-static fields to prevent surface contamination and allow for more breathable PPE materials

Anatomy of a Logistics Operation: How USAID is Equipping Ebola Fighters on the Frontlines

Transporting vital supplies and critical commodities quickly to the epicenter of an international disaster is what USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) does every day.

However, the Ebola response has proved especially challenging for USAID's disaster experts. One major obstacle: Affected West African countries did not have robust infrastructure in place to receive and distribute all the goods pouring into their airports.

As a result, the United States found itself in the unique position of moving an unprecedented amount of medical supplies to a region while *simultaneously* working to build a logistics supply chain almost from scratch—all to ensure that health care workers are able to get what they need to save lives.

Much of the need centered on delivering enough personal protective equipment (PPE) – including gloves, goggles, cov-

eralls, masks and boots—to health care workers. However, once the supplies were flown in, there was no dedicated system in place to transport them to the Ebola treatment units (ETUs) being constructed and staffed by the United States.

That's when USAID partnered closely with the UN World Food Program (WFP) and supported its work to build a system of warehouses throughout the country and develop a supply chain of medical equipment to ensure ETUs received ample resources to open its doors and stay operational.

With this supply chain in place, PPE and other medical supplies could now be transported by truck to logistics bases located in five strategic Liberian cities, close to U.S.-supported ETUs.

In addition to supplying Ebola Treatment Units with medical equipment, USAID has been providing communities with household kits containing bleach, masks,

soap and gloves so that families taking care of sick loved ones could be better protected against Ebola.

Mira Baddour, a logistician with WFP in Liberia, admits that getting all the main players on the same page was initially very challenging.

"For us, for WFP, we usually deal with delivering food, now we were dealing with unfamiliar concepts like ETUs and working with different partners."

"It has been challenging, but at the same time it is a really great experience for me." USAID's Kelly Bradley, who is a veteran of several disasters, agrees that the experience has been personally rewarding.



Coordination in action: U.S. Army logistician Terri Mcfadden (center) consults with USAID logistician Kelly Bradley (right) at a WFP warehouse in Harper, Liberia, on best ways to transport supplies to U.S.-supported Ebola clinics. Text and photo: Carol Han, USAID/OFDA



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Commemorating 50 Years of USAID Investment in Family Planning

On January 4, 1965, in his State of the Union address, President Johnson announced, “I will seek new ways to use our knowledge to help deal with the explosion in world population and the growing scarcity in world resources.” Under this mandate, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) began its population and family planning program.

In the 50 years of assistance, USAID’s program has focused on enabling women and couples to make informed, voluntary decisions about whether to have children and, for those who would like children, when and how many to have.

Expanding access to voluntary family planning information and services has created a positive ripple effect with profound health, economic and social benefits for families and communities. When an individual or a couple can choose the timing and spacing of their children, they are

better equipped to provide for their family’s well-being and invest more of their scarce resources in the health and education of their children. Enabling women and girls to avoid early pregnancy allows many to attend school longer, and women with fewer children are more able to seek employment, increasing household income and assets. We also know that through healthy timing and spacing of

pregnancies, family planning could reduce maternal deaths by 30 percent and child deaths by 28 percent globally.

As the largest bilateral donor for family planning assistance, USAID advances and supports voluntary family planning and reproductive health programs in more than 45 countries, and has played a crucial role in increasing access to modern contraception for women and families across the globe. Use of modern contraception by married women of reproductive age in the developing world (excluding China) rose from less than 10 percent in 1965 to 46 percent today.

Over the coming year, USAID will highlight various aspects of our 50 years working to enable women and men to choose the number, timing, and spacing of their children.



An introduction to contraceptive technology Photo credit: USAID

What’s New in Beijing USAID

Disaster Management Exchange

From January 12–18, 2015, Ms. Maria Rendon, the Development Counselor of USAID in Beijing, participated in the Disaster Management Exchange (DME) between US Army and the People’s Liberation Army (PLA).

The DME is an annual event started in 2005 with presentation exchanges between mid-level officers and has expanded with each subsequent iteration. This year, an the U.S. team participated in a three-day academic discussion with the PLA in Guangzhou, with the topics consisting of site visits and briefings regarding flood control and disaster response capabilities of China as well as those of each U.S. organization involved.

In Haikou, approximately 70 U.S. participants and their PLA counterparts conducted a table top exchange and practical field exchange during which both coun-

tries examined how they would respond to a large-scale natural disaster in a fictional third country.

Lecture to University Students on Global Health

On January 8, 2015, the Development Counselor, Ms. Maria Rendon visited the Duke Kunshan University, in Jiangsu Province. Ms. Rendon met with professors and students of the University’s Global Health Research Center and gave a lecture on USAID’s global health strategy.

She highlighted USAID’s accomplishments in global health in the past 50 years, and introduced USAID’s global health priorities, which are: saving mothers and children; creating an AIDS free generation; family planning and reproductive health; nutrition; and fighting infectious diseases.



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We welcome you comments and suggestions.

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